



ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6451 Canal Avenue, St. Louis 51, Missouri

November 18, 1964

Dr. George Fuld  
P.O.Box 9035  
Akron, Ohio 44305

Dear George:

When I telephoned you Tuesday night, as you suggested, I was a little shocked that you had turned over the matter concerning the U.S.\$20 Assay pieces to the Secret Service.

I feel as though this was not in accordance with the understanding of the group that any such action would first be discussed with and considered by the group. The group was formed by Jim Sloss to ascertain the facts evident from the coins themselves and he was the instigator responsible for giving all of us the opportunity to work on them. He apparently feels as I do.

You told me you acted on your lawyer's advice and I respect that. Nevertheless after several months of work by the group a few days for the group to consider why such action was recommended could not have made much difference.

Sincerely yours,



ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC  
EDUCATION SOCIETY

EPN/atb

# New Netherlands Coin Co., Inc.

SUITE 401  
1 WEST 47TH STREET  
NEW YORK 36, N. Y.

PHONES PLAZA 7-5245-6

December 3, 1964

Mr. Eric P. Newman  
Edison Brothers Stores, Inc.  
400 Washington Ave.  
St. Louis 2, Mo.

Dear Eric:

I am doing something rather unorthodox, but I believe that I am doing the right thing.

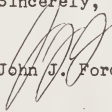
Enclosed, you will find a photostat of the first two pages of a recent letter written to me by Paul Franklin. Paul wrote this letter following a telephone conversation with me, in which I advised him of the lengths to which the "inquisitors" were going, and had gone.

You do not know Paul Franklin, and perhaps reading his letter, might give you an insight into the man. I did not know that he was writing this letter, and I believe that he wrote it when he felt both deeply hurt and angry.

I have since written to Franklin and told him not to get too excited, as the situation was under control.

Very best personal regards.

Sincerely,

  
John J. Ford, Jr.

JJF:dn

Encl.

Nov. 23, 1964

(1)

Dear John:

After our phone conversation the other day, I started to think about my past numismatic dealings. More than twenty five years ago I both bought from and sold coins to such people as Abe Kossoff, Joe Silverman, Dave Bullowa, Boss and Nagy of Phil. F.K. Saab, Balch & Son, Charlie Green, Stacks, Max Mohl and numerous others, many now deceased but many still living. I had nothing but a wonderful time in my dealings with these people. I also know they thought well of me and the dealings they did with me. In later years, the late forties and fifties, such people as Mrs. C. Bullowa, M.L. Kaplan, Ler Young, Sam Schulman, Friedberg or Gimble, Lester Markin, and numerous others including Empire Coin Co., W.F. Steinberg, and last but not least New Netherlands. These people too had many pleasant dealings with me. I still own many gold and silver coins bought from these people, such as my first San Francisco silver ingot from Stacks, A beautiful Moffatt \$ 20. gold piece from a Schulman, Kreisberg sale, an unc. \$ 20. gold United States piece with unpressed A's from Peter Seaby of London with the help of New Netherlands Co.. A beautiful Unc. \$50. gold piece (Humbert) from Bill Steinberg, and many many others just too numerous to mention.

With all the coins I have bought in over twenty five years I have never returned one for any reason (I know what I am buying and am satisfied with it). I can also say that no one within my memory has ever returned any coin to me (that I sold or traded to them) for any reason whatsoever, (mis-grading, false or counterfeit). Even the old Grosby electros that I own I have never sold and wouldn't. Tho I have received more than fair offers for them. I have never sold a known cast or electro but have given some away free, as you well know. Even these were of no United States Coin. Any coin or piece that I have ever sold, I stand ready to buy back from the original buyer for what he paid me for it. Tho I might have to take a second mortgage on the old homestead to get my collection in back to do so.

(2)

I am getting sick and tired of remarks and innuendoes made behind my back, mostly by people I have never had dealings with and don't even know well. I am fairly even tempered and slow to burn but I think it is about time for me to consult a lawyer regarding my rights and the meaning of the words libel, conspiracy, and defamation. I also believe I should bring written charges against certain people, with the A.N.A. Dr. J. Sloss I have never met formally and know nothing about whatsoever. Eric P. Newman I do not know well but I respect him for his numismatic knowledge and written works. He knows of me only through hearsay. John J. Pittman I can say nothing well about so I say nothing. George J. Fuld I know well enough to do favors for and I just received a check from him for a Washington medal. He mentioned nothing in his letter to me regarding any conversation with others concerning me. I fully realize that these people have been members of the A.N.A. for a much longer period than I, with the exception of possibly George Fuld.

If such a group as I just mentioned have secretly banded together to make statements, representations expressed either in print or writing, tending to expose me to public contempt or ridicule, this is called, I believe, conspiracy. If it hurts my reputation by being malicious, unfair or harmful, it is called defamation and is libelous.

Unfortunately the trend of calling me the "Massapequa Mint" started with the trading to me of the small collection of medal dies formerly owned by F.C.C. Boyd. This worsened with the purchase of the large Jos. K. Davison estate consisting of thousands of medal and decoration dies. The funny part is that the nearest thing to coin dies that I had and sold to such persons as Empire Coin Co., R. Bashlow etc. (the impaired Wustoff xx shilling to Empire, the Continental Dollar to Empire, the Conway to Bashlow to name as you well know just a few) were used by them to strike thousands of restrikes or replicas. They do the dirty work, reap all the money and I get the bad name from people who do not even know the truth.

December 25, 1964

Mr. Melvin Fuld  
6701 Park Heights Avenue  
Baltimore 15, Maryland

Dear Melvin:

Thank you for your letter of December 20, 1964.

I certainly am most distressed at the recurrence of George's problem and have tried in every way to discourage him from devoting too much time and effort to too many fields of numismatics so that it harms his health, his family life, and his efficiency. I talked to Nancy before I heard from you and she certainly seems to be an understanding and strong person.

As far as George turning over the U. S. Army #20 pieces to the Secret Service the day before he took sick and turning over documents to them, I fully recognize, now, that he was not himself. I do not know what documents he turned over to the Secret Service and would appreciate it if you would send me copies of any receipts they might have given him.

You certainly have every reason to feel proud of George's accomplishments in numismatics and I hope that the necessary medical restrictions on his future activity will give him some room to continue his work. I hope his recovery will be prompt and that once recovered a program of stabilization can be accomplished.

George has possession of a group of Vernon medals which belong to me but there is no rush about that.

There is one point I would very much like to make clear to you, namely, that if you ever dispose of any part of your library, or any of the eighteenth century Washington pieces, or any of the Maryland paper money, I would be most interested in having an opportunity to buy them. My library is available to any sincere student and there are a number of gaps I would like to fill in.



-2-

December 29, 1961

Mr. Melvin Fuld

I look forward to hearing from you as to the  
U.S. Assay matter.

If there is anything I can do to be helpful to  
you with respect to any of George's problems, please feel  
free to call on me.

With kindest personal regards,

Sincerely yours,

ERIC F. NEWMAN

EFN/sub

6/2/65

Koss! told me over the telephone  
that he had a Shady #8 pattern  
stuck in an 18x7 Men's Friend  
that Ford asked to borrow & for a photo  
and when it was returned Ford said  
Franklin made up one for him to a  
~~little~~ gift and also saw it and it was  
stuck in another 18x7 Men's Friend  
He said Ford had no right to let Frank  
have it and asked to destroy the photo  
Ford gave excuses about destroying a copy  
from another etc



G. Blake

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

December 13, 1967

Mr. Lester Merkin  
65 East 56th Street  
New York, N.Y.

Dear Lester:

I feel that you might wish to follow up on the G. Blake ingot matter and thought you should have some information I have.

In the 1 March 1962 auction sale of Wallis & Wallis, Lewes, England, Lot 365 was an Irish St. Patrick farthing struck in gold. I did not know about it when I wrote "A Snake Breeds a St. Patrick's Farthing" in the May, 1963 NUMISMATIST. In that article I pointed out that the silver farthings which had appeared in England in 1962 were forgeries.

When I visited Albert Baldwin in 1966 he humorously mentioned the gold item and said he wouldn't have touched it. It had been bought by Spink for £500 at the sale and plaster casts sent to the B.M. and others for comment. No one had seen any such variety before. When I saw the casts I realized it was from the forged dies I had described. I took a train to Lewes and asked the auctioneer who conducted the 1962 sale what the consignor's name was and who received the money. He said it was sent in unsolicited by registered mail in a group of common coins and when it brought £500 (the highest price coin sold in Wallis and Wallis history), the owner never even thanked or commented. We looked up the records and found that the coin was submitted by M. Sutton, Esq., C/o B.H. Grover, 23 Besuchamp Road, East Moseley. The auctioneer told me he knew Maurice Sutton but that Sutton couldn't have submitted the piece. I asked why not and he became angry and left.

Then I wrote Grover and have a letter from Grover dated 3 Oct. 1966 saying that Maurice Sutton did submit the coin; that Sutton met Grover in London in 1966 and Sutton said that he had thought the coin only had a nominal value. At the next meeting Grover promised to ask Sutton where the coin came from and that was the last I heard from Grover although Albert Baldwin, (who knew Grover for many years) asked him to answer me also.

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

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December 13, 1967

Mr. Lester Merkin

Grover was the person who called Spink's attention to the coin. Grover said he was present at the sale and I asked, to no avail, who bid against Spink. Grover just dropped the whole matter.

Now that you told me that Bryan H. Grover is the owner of the G. Blake forgery, I think it is not coincidental. He seems to be the front man for sales of forgeries. I suggest you write him and ask him where he obtained the ingot. I also suggest you find a reason not to return it if you get it back from the police.

Please send me a photo of it in any event.

It is always nice to see you. Never a dull moment.

Kindest regards,



ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC  
EDUCATION SOCIETY

EPN  
atb

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

June 6, 1968

Dr. George Fuld  
5929 Western Park Dr.  
Baltimore, Maryland 21209

Dear George:

The USAOG matter is in a state of chaos. There is enclosed a copy of the decision of the arbitrators. This decision was not published by any of the news media even though it was furnished to them by Garland after the arbitrators and PNG did not wish to make a release. Coin World determined to publish it in May but then its mind was changed somehow.

Garland has not had a reply from Byrne when he requested his money so far as we know.

The written report which we furnished during the course of the hearing was amended and was supplemented by other data and opinions. The arbitrators indicated that they did not wish to have these matters circulated by us and for the present we have respected that wish. They have not made their file available to us or to anyone we know. Whether Max Schwan of the PNG saw the file in revising the text of the decision of the arbitrators before it was released we do not know. There has been a general blackout on the matter with rumors flying here and there.

Garland had no opportunity to cross examine several witnesses and was not allowed to see some of the testimony. The hearing was handled by the arbitrators without legal advice and many unfortunate things happened because of it.

We had less and less cooperation as time went on and our disappointment in certain people's guts was considerable. Some arbitrators must have had similar ideas.

Why don't you make a formal request to see the arbitration file? Write the arbitrators and write PNG and see what happens! Send us a copy if you do?

The important thing is that Garland won and the decision of the arbitrators was unanimous. Your help was extremely helpful to us and the pictures taken at Goodyear were superb.

This matter is far from dead.

Kindest regards,

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

December 17, 1971

International Gold Corporation  
4640 Hollywood Blvd.,  
Hollywood, California 90027

Attention: Mr. Steve Markoff

Gentlemen:

You have requested our opinion as to the 1853 \$20 U. S. Assay Office 900 fine proof-like gold coin which was owned by Harry Forman early in 1968 and for several years prior thereto. He owned two pieces from the same dies, one having a proof-like surface, the other having two reverse impressions.

We were asked to do research on a coin of the identical type owned by Paul Garland and in the course of that work Harry Forman was kind enough to permit us to examine his two pieces. When an arbitration was set up by the Professional Numismatists Guild, we were asked to give the results of our findings and our opinion. You have been furnished with the arbitration decision rendered February 16, 1968 that the Garland coin was not a proof and that the purchase price should be refunded by the seller. This refund was not made until after a suit in the Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois, resulted in a judgment which was then satisfied by payment and a return of the coin. Our findings and opinion in the arbitration have not been published and were challenged by other testimony. Such other opinions, as far as we know, have not been published either, such as the Breen-Taxay opinion which you have. Garland was not given the opportunity to cross examine persons who challenged our views. Additional facts have come to us after our findings and opinion were given.

Our conclusion is that the Forman coin and others from the same dies were struck late in the 1950-1960 decade. The face dies used were made during that period by hub transfer. The hubs at that time were apparently made by the use of a pair of genuine face dies which were in the United States Mint collection during the early part of the twentieth century and were seen by Edgar Adams then. These and other dies for Pioneer gold disappeared from the Mint collection and seemed to have been obtained by outside parties without authority. Such outside parties or their successors used them or had them used to prepare new hubs. After the new hubs were pressed, their fields were polished and tooled. New face dies were prepared from the hubs and polished. An entirely new collar die was manufactured at the same time. Your coin was struck from the new face dies and new collar die.

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

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December 17, 1971

International Gold Corporation  
4640 Hollywood Blvd.  
Hollywood, California 90027

The normal 1853 \$20 U. S. Assay Office 900 fine gold piece is available in reasonable quantity and has 162 reeds on its edge, has a lump between T and E of UNITED on the reverse, has a diagonal dent on the base line before F in CALIFORNIA, has no spur on the right upright of the N in UNITED and usually has an extensive die break on the right side of the reverse panel. No proofs had ever been recorded in any article or catalogue prior to the appearance of the alleged hoard in which the Forman piece appeared. On page 225 of Yeoman's Guide Book of United States Coins for 1966, the reader is warned to beware of spurious specimens in "proof" condition. This comment was apparently inserted at the recommendation of a panel of advisers for the private gold section of the catalogue.

The number of reeds on the edge of the Forman coin and on each coin struck from the same new face and collar dies is 170. This resulted from the use of the new collar die. A view from the ends of the reeds, when the coin is laid on a flat surface, indicates that the collar die was cut in a modern broaching or gear cutting machine because the cross section is too perfect for mid-nineteenth century manufacture. The lump between the T and E of UNITED was polished off the reverse hub, the diagonal dent on the base line below F in CALIFORNIA resulted from a bumping of the finished reverse die. The spur on the right upright of N of UNITED was due to an accident to the new reverse die. The elimination of the die break on the right side of the reverse panel was done by polishing off these portions from the hub. The allegations as to the source of the Forman piece as being obtained from a direct descendant of an associate of August Humbert, etc. are fictitious, in our opinion. Our conclusion is that the Forman coin you have is a modern artificial creation.

We have seen a number of other pieces, which in our opinion have been struck using new dies or parts of new dies made in the 1950-1960 period from the new hubs. None of those pieces were recorded prior to the alleged discovery of the Forman piece or the hoard from which it allegedly came. Some of these other pieces are made after modification of the new hubs and/or new dies.

We hope that the foregoing opinion will be of service to you.

If you have any other facts to bring to our attention concerning the matter, please feel free to do so.

Very truly yours,

EPN  
atb

 PRESIDENT

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC  
EDUCATION SOCIETY

A NON-PROFIT CORPORATION FOR EDUCATION  
THROUGH RESEARCH AND EXHIBITION  
OF COINS, CURRENCY AND HISTORIC OBJECTS

FRIED, FRANK, HARRIS, SHRIVER & JACOBSON

STRASSER SPIEGELBERG, FRIED & FRANK

120 BROADWAY NEW YORK, N. Y. 10005

PHONE 6100  
CABLE STRIDE NEW YORK  
TELEX 621113

April 17, 1975

1901-1

Mr. W. Neil Harris  
Editor  
The Numismatist  
P. O. Box 2366  
Colorado Springs, Colo. 80901

Dear Mr. Harris:

Please be advised that we represent John Jay Ford, Jr., of Rockville Centre, New York, and are writing this letter on behalf of our client. Mr. Ford has turned over to us your letter of April 10, 1975, with the enclosed xerox copy of an article by T.V. Buttrey which you plan to publish in the June issue of The Numismatist. In addition to the fact that this article contains misstatements, we find it to be libellous and even malicious insofar as our client is concerned. In the event that you decide to publish this article, our client will have no alternative other than to commence legal proceedings against your publication as well as Mr. Buttrey.

Very truly yours,

FRIED, FRANK, HARRIS,  
SHRIVER & JACOBSON

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Laurence Rosenthal

LR:noc

cc: Mr. T.V. Buttrey ✓  
Mrs. John Culver  
Mr. Edward C. Rochette  
Mr. John J. Ford, Jr.

## 3



those geared to hobbyists using metal detectors.

Ford recalls, "One metal detector magazine recommend that readers find old roads that were in use in the 1880s and use the metal detector up to 100 feet of each side of the road. If some guy were being chased by a posse after knocking off a stage, he would get rid of the stuff. A lot of the times he didn't come back. He got killed. And the gold bars stayed in the ground."

The advertising worked. Franklin would go on buying trips and send the bars to Ford, who would find collector/buyers. The business began to boom in the early 1960s, when Franklin started to buy hoards and more of the bars were of .900 fine gold and higher.

"I was getting so much of this stuff. From gun shows. I remember in 1969 I bought 27 ingots — spent \$40,000 to \$50,000. I bought Brother Jonathan ingots that way," Ford said. He estimates that during his career he has handled close to 500 Western assay bars.

Accounts of the hoards Franklin and Ford marketed are detailed in Chapter 12 of *American Coin Treasures and Hoards* by Q. David Bowers, published in 1998.

The early 1960s and appearance of more gold bars presented a problem. It was illegal for Americans at that time to own gold bullion. And new regulations and definitions with regard to collectors holding gold coins were being contemplated in govern-

ment circles.

Ford recalls that in August 1962, he and John J. Pittman, then a member of the ANS's Board of Governors, traveled to Washington, D.C., to talk with Director of the Mint Eva Adams.

During the visit, Ford said he told her about "the ingot problem." The problem was that historical or Western bars had not been included in the regulations. According to Ford, the Mint Director went to see Thomas Wolfe, director of the Office of Domestic Gold and Silver Operations. It took several years of meetings and correspondence, but in June 1966 the Treasury Department issued its "Rare Gold Bar Statement" defining gold bars and setting up a licensing procedure to legalize the holding of such bars in numismatic collections.

Ford noted that the license applied only to gold bars of .900 fineness or higher. Unparted bars did not need a license.

Ford said he applied for and obtained a license for "about 75 gold bars. Other people got licenses, too." Based on information he gleaned from government officials and other collectors, he estimates that approximately 100 such licenses were issued.

Ford says that he photographed every Western assay ingot he ever handled or saw and that he has maintained records of all of them. Many of the bars he sold made their way to famous collectors and have been bought and sold regularly in the numismatic

marketplace, especially in public auctions in the last 25 years.

Ford says that those who question the authenticity of the Western assay bars he and Franklin found and marketed in the 1960s and 1990s. Some even suggest that he and Franklin were involved in an elaborate counterfeiting scheme.

"You've got to realize that if I were a crook, the last thing I would do is invite the United States government to be a partner," Ford exclaimed. He added, "95 percent of my net worth is in rare coins. Why would I compromise that? I can make more money being legitimate."

Ford insists he never had contact with a smelter and questions why a refiner would have risked selling him gold, when it would have meant risking his license to counterfeit the time. Playing devil's advocate, Ford questions where such bars could have been made or how they could have been made with the proper balance of copper, silver, iron, manganese and other trace elements in them.

Of his accusers, Ford said, "These are academics. They have no hint of practicality. They haven't the slightest idea that I make these things that you need metals. You need metals. First thing you need to know what's in them. How would I make known all of this?"

Ford notes that Western assay bars, though not in the numbers he encountered them, continue to make their way in the marketplace. "These are bars that I've never seen or handled."

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**Ant**

"When meet the

110 Charlotte Place, N.C.



Washington

WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY IN ST. LOUIS

Arts and Sciences

Department of Chemistry

12 Jan 01

Dear Eric -

Enclosed please find the Derstler  
interview with Ford from the Sept. 6, 1999  
Coin World. It's most interesting feature  
to me is the example of Ford's records  
illustrated.

I also enclose the Richard Nachbar  
Ad from CW Jan 8, 2001. I still  
beman to be convinced that this deal is  
not connected with our favorite  
fancasizer(s).

All the best!

*A Mississippi Collector Sold Us...*

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*Dear Mr. Nachbar:*

*After I made up my mind to sell my collection of Gold coins and bars, I contacted you about the possibility of liquidating my holdings. You came most promptly, inventoried my collection and told me your offer. I was very much surprised with the considerable amount that you paid me.*

*Your offer was both honest and professional, and I am very pleased with our transaction. I would highly recommend that any coin collectors who are contemplating selling to contact you.*

*Sincerely,  
B. C. Masterson*



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[rich.nachbar@coinexpert.com](mailto:rich.nachbar@coinexpert.com)



Dear Mr. Yeoman,

Thanks for the copy of the Guidebook. It looks excellent at first sight, and is much appreciated.

Nevertheless, I thought I'd let you know about a few unfortunate contretemps before someone reviews this edition and excoriates you for them. Particularly when I was in part responsible for the changes in the book leading to these mishaps.

First, the treatment of the FUGIOS contains two rather serious slips.

(1) The type Club Rays, rounded ends, should have had the regular Club Rays price added. It is rare, to be sure; but there are enough sales records to justify values as in the 5th Edition.

(2) STATES UNITED. All the common types have cinquefoils on label. The type table should read:

STATES UNITED at sides of circle. Cinquefoils on label...

2.00 4.50 12.50

Ditto. Eight-pointed stars on label. Rare

Ditto. Label with raised rims, etc. Rare

Obv. No cinquefoils. Cross after date. Rev. UNITED STATES. Rare.

Etc.

I can now give you the relative rarities, via correspondence and a sight of the Douglas monograph.

CLUB RAYS: Concave ends, FUGIO. Unique.

Concave ends, FUGIO. Ex. rare.

Round ends. Usual price for club rays.

POINTED RAYS: UNITED above STATES. Unc. only, \$100.

UNITED STATES at sides. As is.

STATES UNITED at sides. Cinquefoils. As is.

STATES UNITED. Eight-pointed stars. Rare.

STATES UNITED. Concentric circles, etc. Ex. rare.

Obv. without cinquefoils; cross after date. UNITED STATES. Very rare.

STATES UNITED. Very rare.

Concentric circles. Ex. rare.

Copper pattern. Same obv.; rev. AMERICAN CONGRESS, etc. as illustrated. Ex. rare...

Next, the HALF CENTS. (Incidentally, do you know where is the 1795 that you <sup>lettered like, with pole</sup> illustrate? This piece I want to get a photo. of for the plate in the Half Cent book. It looks like the Mills coin, which was elsewhere called a proof, and is one of the 2 or 3 finest known.)

1805. Small 5, stars. I will pay double catalogue for every one you can get me. It is twice as rare as the 1836 small 6, stars.

1831. Restrike. Reverse of 1836. This is worth over \$30. I think that you may have had this confused with the 1852 restrike, which last is common and brings \$40 to \$65. The prices would be more accurately stated thus:

1831. Original. \$110

1831. Restrike. Large berries, rev. of 1836. \$85.

1831. Restrike. Small berries, rev. of 1852. \$125.

1836. Original. \$110.

1836. Restrike; small berries, rev. of 1852. \$125.

1852. Restrike. \$75.

1857 is a bargain at \$30, for a proof.

Large Cents: I do not quite see how you get away with having the  
restrrike at 35 in fine; this coin almost always comes unc. with profile  
surface.

The 1803 1/2 g. Date, Small Fraction, is for all practical purposes unobtainable  
in fine. A dash would better express its valuation. It is certainly much  
rarer above V3 than is the 183 small letters. The basal value on the 1803  
(3-264) is going up to about \$7.50 or more in the current market, precisely because  
all but about three or four specimens of the 16 or 18 known are in Good or worse,  
and those offered have brought well over \$6 per unit of condition consistently  
in the last few years. The Dunning ring is an example in point. \$27 for one  
barely in condition 4, and nicked, is well over book value; and this coin went  
to a dealer who would certainly not sell it at any peanut profit.

Dollars: 1851, 1852. I will buy at full catalogue or more every unc. one you  
can find, and congratulate myself on a bargain.

1838. There were far from 300 made of the variety with stars on reverse. It is  
the rarest of all Gobrechts without exception, when it has a reeded edge; and is  
nearly as rare with plain edge. ✓

Private Gold: The Moffat \$14.75 ingot and the Bechtler rule appear to be  
legitimate (though the Bechtler rule, from its fabric, seems to be a restrike  
made by August from one of his father's old rusty dies combined with one of  
his own). However, I am afraid that putting in the Kellogg-Hewston ingot was  
a little premature. See Adams, Private Gold, which you allude to on p.221.  
Adams says that Kellogg entered into a partnership with one John Hewston (sic)  
Jr., after the Kellogg-Humbert partnership was dissolved. This partnership  
would have been the logical source of the \$19.50 ingot illustrated. I believe  
that Adams's spelling Hewston is an error, for there are letters in the Archives  
from this firm (shipping gold to the mint, etc.) which give the name as Hewston.\*  
It will therefore be very difficult to establish that the \$19.50 ingot could  
have been struck before 1861.

I hope that the above is of some use to you. Very truly,  
Walter Breen

Subj: RE: The E-Sylum v9#12, March 19, 2006  
Date: 03/20/2006 9:34:07 A.M. Central Standard Time  
From: qdbarchive@metrocast.net  
To: whomren@coinlibrary.com  
CC: kbressett@pcisys.com, ericnumis@aol.com, jadams@ahh.com

Dear Wayne,

Nice issue. Great to see you in Baltimore. Find happiness in Herndon, please!

Interesting stuff on Paul Franklin. According to JJF a bunch of marvelous new discoveries were found by PGF in the "Blake estate," in Boston, descended from the Blake of Gold Rush fame.

I was suspicious of these and did not rise to the opportunity to publish Ford-supplied research about certain new coins. However, a writer on territorial gold coins did so, and a bunch of this was published in a book, as we all know.

The Ford technique seems to have been to find something bearing the name of a person or firm associated with the Gold Rush. The researcher was then guided toward contemporary directories, history, etc., of the Gold Rush and was able to find that John Doe did indeed go to SF, or that John Smith is listed as a jeweler or something else in a SF directory. Then, a scenario was constructed by the researcher about John Doe going to SF, making gold coins or ingots, but "today little is known about them," etc.

Some efforts were made to have certain pieces listed in the Guide Book, but editor Ken Bressett fended most off.

John Adams takes the view that JJF had no idea that these were fake, but swallowed Paul Franklin's stories whole.

I knew both JJF (well) and PGF (in passing). JJF and PGF collaborated to create "Republic of Texas doubloons," with Walter Breen sworn to secrecy. However, Walter told me, I discussed the project with JJF, he was upset to know that I was aware (at the time Breen and Ford were in one of their estranged periods), and promised me a souvenir doubloon.

According to JJF, this was but a caper to fool the know-it-all experts in numismatics and, in particular, to sell one to John Murrell, a Texan who bought a lot of gold coins; after being duly amazed, etc., etc., Murrell was to be told the real story, a refund made, and a good laugh was to be enjoyed by all. Or, that is how the story was told to me. New Netherlands had been advertising to buy South American doubloons in The Numismatist. The scenario was to have been that, surprise!, some incoming doubloons were of a marvelous and hitherto unknown Republic of Texas style, counterstamped on real doubloons.

I was told that Breen researched the type of lettering, etc., that was to be used, and that the die was to be made in Milan. There is a somewhat related scenario in which JJF had PGF openly make close copies of the Libertas Americana medal, to be sold and described as copies, by First CoinVestors. These became a reality.

I never did see a Republic of Texas doubloon in the flesh, but there there is an illustration of one in the Brunk counterstamp book.

Dave B

Monday, March 20, 2006 America Online: EricNumis

Subj: **RE: The E-Sylum v9#12, March 19, 2006**  
 Date: 03/20/2006 10:09:08 A.M. Central Standard Time  
 From: qdbarchive@metrocast.net  
 To: whomren@telerama.com  
 CC: kbressett@pcisys.com, jadams@ahh.com, ericnumis@aol.com

Hi Wayne!

Good luck with your housing switcheroo.

If Ken B and John Adams, both of whom I mentioned, are okay with it, that would be fine. Can you check with them?

I am not aware that JJF ever manufactured anything, or had "new" dies for old-looking things in his possession, or new punches, etc. He openly credited PGF for his amazing finds and on occasion financed PGF's forays into the Southwest, seeking out new types of ingots, coins, etc.

Dave B

-----Original Message-----

From: Wayne Homren [mailto:whomren@telerama.com]  
 Sent: Monday, March 20, 2006 11:01 AM  
 To: 'Dave Bowers'  
 Subject: RE: The E-Sylum v9#12, March 19, 2006

We put in an offer on a house Friday, and the seller accepted. It's contingent on selling our Pittsburgh house. Money can't buy happiness, but it helps sometimes. I'll need to liquidate part of my collection to help pay for it, and I've sent John K. a summary of the material, but only a small part of it is auction quality. I'm not sure what to do, but I'll talk with him soon.

Is any of this stuff on Franklin and Ford for publication? Some parts are less controversial than others.

Thanks. -Wayne.

-----Original Message-----

From: Dave Bowers [mailto:qdbarchive@metrocast.net]  
 Sent: Monday, March 20, 2006 10:33 AM  
 To: whomren@coinlibrary.com  
 Cc: Ken Bressett; Eric P. Newman; John W. Adams  
 Subject: RE: The E-Sylum v9#12, March 19, 2006

Dear Wayne,

Nice issue. Great to see you in Baltimore. Find happiness in Herndon, please!

Interesting stuff on Paul Franklin. According to JJF a bunch of marvelous new discoveries were found by PGF in the "Blake estate," in Boston, descended from the Blake of Gold Rush fame.

I was suspicious of these and did not rise to the opportunity to publish Ford-supplied research about certain new coins. However, a writer on territorial gold coins did so, and a bunch of this was published in a book, as we all know.

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Monday, March 20, 2006 America Online: EricNumis



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I never did see a Republic of Texas doubloon in the flesh, but there there is an illustration of one in the Brunk counterstamp book.

Dave B

-----Original Message-----

From: [esylum-bounces@binhost.com](mailto:esylum-bounces@binhost.com) [mailto:[esylum-bounces@binhost.com](mailto:esylum-bounces@binhost.com)] On Behalf Of [esylum@binhost.com](mailto:esylum@binhost.com)  
Sent: Monday, March 20, 2006 12:08 AM  
To: [esylum@binhost.com](mailto:esylum@binhost.com)  
Subject: The E-Sylum v9#12, March 19, 2006

Welcome to The E-Sylum: Volume 9, Number 12, March 19, 2006:  
an electronic publication of the Numismatic Bibliomania Society.  
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#### WAYNE'S WORDS

We now have 866 subscribers. Your Editor had nice evening Wednesday at the American Numismatic Rarities auction in Baltimore. At the invitation of Richard Jewell, a consignor to the sale, I had dinner with Rich and his wife Fran, and was delighted to be joined at our table by Q. David Bowers, John Pack and others from

Monday, March 20, 2006 America Online: EricNumis

3/22/06

Telephoned Ken Busselt twice today

I said that in 1966 both Franklin and Ford were together at the PNC arbitration hearing in Chicago. That both hearing Ford defended the genuineness of the USAGG pieces. The Lutzey article confirms that. Franklin at the arbitration refused to testify when he obtained the board or the piece involved and the arbitrators sustained the refusal on the ground that ~~he~~ a dealer does not have to disclose his sources. I said I felt Ford could not have been fooled by the pieces as he had studied the matter and was the defender of the case for Ryan.

I told Ken that if Breen knew (as Breen stated) about the preparation of the Texas Doubloon forging that Ford was arranging to fool or make a joke about for Murrell - then Ford knew where the fake came from. Ford then knew the capabilities of Franklin that Breen was to select the proper type and text for the forged Countersong, thus Ford knew Franklin was writing and able to make forgeries.

I told Ken that the hubbub as Americana copies made allegedly from a transfer die taken from the rusted dies as the French mint by Ford seemed impossible as the French mint doesn't release dies. It also would take a lot of work to clean up the rust. I suggested that Franklin just make the transfer dies from a genuine medal. Neither of us had ever seen such a copy. Ken agreed I was probably correct.

Ken told me where to find the Texas Doubloon picture in Breen's.

**JOHN M. KLEEGERG**

430 E. 56<sup>th</sup> St. Apt. 8F

New York, NY 10022

(212) 752-3488

jmkleeberg@yahoo.com

New York, August 10, 2008

Dear Eric,

Enclosed is the photocopy of what I have about provenances of the Lily gold bars and other stuff. This was produced to Buttrey during some of the initial back and forth between the attorneys for the two sides. On looking through it, Franklin is not given as a provenance for anything; but Amelingmeier is for one piece.

I am also enclosing the handout that I prepared for the Kagin forum on August 2, 2008. Kagin tried to prevent me from handing it out, but I ended up distributing it anyway.


I am also enclosing a photograph of Burdette G. Johnson that I found while reading through the *Numismatic Scrapbook Magazine*, since photographs of Johnson are rare. I once asked you if you had a photograph of him, and you said you did, and you asked Evelyn if she could locate it, and Evelyn said – “if we were to look for a million years, we might find it.” Well, you don’t have to wait that long – here is a photograph of BGJ.

I have been assigned by the New York Numismatic Club to write its centennial history. As you know the New York club takes great pride in its longevity, and notes down the consecutive number of each meeting. Thus I think you will be “devilishly” delighted to learn what occurred at meeting number 666 – it was at that meeting that you were elected to membership.

I haven’t been able to locate the article that I thought I had that was written by Kenyon Painter – I’ll have to look further. But I now think it may not be by Painter, but rather by Philip Whiteley.

I will write another letter later with my thoughts about your propositions in regard to Massachusetts silver.

Very best wishes to you and yours,

  
John M. Kleeberg

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Feb 9, 2009

Mr. John Kleeborg  
430 E 56<sup>th</sup> St. #8F  
New York City NY 10022

Dear John:

This is a laugh for you.

Enclosed is a photocopy of an article  
in Coin World Feb 9, 2009 p. 62.

The first paragraph states a position on  
authentication, the second paragraph undertakes  
to authenticate. That is shocking, particularly  
in view of the subject matter which is one  
you have exposed clearly.

I hope you like it.

My best

Eric

October 16, 1964

To:

Messrs. John J. Pittman, James O. Sloss and George Fuld

From:

Eric P. Newman

I received the enclosed data from John Ford in a letter of October 11, 1964. He has no objection to my sending it to you.

I have received the Bell-Zarouk proof U.S. Assay #20 piece and after studying it will send it to Sloss or Fuld for X-ray diffraction spectrography and/or X-ray fluorescence.

EPN/atb

January 25, 1965

Dear:  
George Fuld  
A. Mesoff  
Eric Newman  
James Sloss

Gentlemen:

After studying the letter of January 15, 1965, by Eric P. Newman, I am of the opinion that we should continue our studies of these issues.

Sincerely,

  
John J. Pittman

April 12, 1965

Mr. A. Mosoff  
P.O. Box 456  
Encino, California

Dear Abe:

There is returned herewith the proof 1853 U.S. Assay Office \$20 coin which you were kind enough to send me for study. Please thank the owner, profusely, for lending us this interesting piece. The delay in its return was, of course, due to the period during which it was held by the United States Secret Service.

You are a member of the group studying these coins and I hope you study the coin, carefully, again, before turning it back to the owner.

George Fuld is now requesting his out-of-pocket expenses in connection with his research on the various Assay Office pieces and this and a few other matters will be taken up with you in due course.

Kindest personal regards.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. FEWMAN NUMISMATIC  
EDUCATION SOCIETY

EPW/atb

REGISTERED MAIL  
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED



May 27, 1965

Dear:

Dr. James O. Sloos  
Dr. George Fald  
John J. Pittman  
I. Kosoff

Gentlemen:

I am enclosing a copy of letter dated May 17, 1965, from Ronnie Carr, to me, after having received his permission to send copies to you. If any of you care to comment on the matter to other members of the committee, I am sure you will do so.

I have told Dr. Carr that the committee is trying to act as a whole and that health problems of some of the members have delayed the matter.

As I previously stated, I have George Fald's file, including pictures of the Lebriskie proof.

In connection with George Fald's request for reimbursement for expenses, Abe Kosoff and I have agreed to pay our proportionate amount and wonder how the other two of you feel on this subject. I believe it would be helpful to dispose of this financial matter promptly.

Sincerely yours,

EDDIE P. NEWMAN  
P.O. Box 14020  
St. Louis, Missouri 63175

EDP/ab

August 5, 1965

Dr. James Sloss

Eric F. Newman

Dear Jim:

In my visit to Kentucky, a little while ago, we went to Lexington, and could not visit Hopkinsville. I certainly hope that you and your family had a delightful visit and that it improved your physical well-being, tremendously.

In connection with the USAOG, I am enclosing enlargements of a photo taken of No. 14, which was borrowed from Harry Forman, and No. 15, which is the double-strike.

I believe No. 14, in particular, clarifies much of the thinking which we have discussed in view of the fact that the die break is full on that specimen. I hope your eyes are ready to see the importance of this picture.

My kindest regards to your lovely family and tell them that they deserve much of the credit for getting you well.

Cordially,

EFN/etb

January 5, 1966

Dr. James Sloss

Eric S. Newman

Dear Jim:

Thank you for the nice Christmas card. Our children came home for the Holidays and we all had a very wonderful time together.

George Fuld seems to be entirely well and is doing coin work, again, and therefore should be out in on any matters with respect to the so-called "committee" on the USOAG.

My most important wish for you during the New Year is to keep your health as you certainly had a miserable year last year.

I never have heard from you as to whether Garland's coin had been returned and would very much like to have my file complete in that respect. Would you please write me accordingly?

I also do not have any record of having received the \$32.70 paid to Fuld on your behalf and wonder if you ever sent me that or not.

What is much more important is, where are the pictures you promised to send me? Were they taken? Is Pittman having them specially printed, or where do we stand?

If you will recall, Pittman is the Chairman of an A.W.A. Authentication Committee and you, and I, and Ford, etc. are on it, but, so far as I know, no action has ever been proposed by the chairman - which is very disappointing. Have you any information in this respect?

My best wishes to you and your lovely family,

Sincerely,

EPH:tb

February 1, 1966

Robert.  
James B. Mous  
George Fild  
John J. Pilsner  
A. Lowoff

Gentlemen:

I am writing to you as members of the study group formed in 1964 with respect to the U.S. 1853 Assay Office 225 pieces.

There is enclosed herewith a copy of letter which we just received from Bonnie Carr dated February 1, 1966. We construe this letter to be addressed to the group as a whole.

Bonnie Carr, as stated on page 213 of the 1965 Guide Book, is the coordinator of a special panel on Private Gold, which panel consists of thirteen persons there named. The Guide Book states that it includes the conclusions of the findings and the conclusions of this panel. One of the comments included, as you know, is "beaware of spurious specimens in 'proof' condition," under the 1853 U.S. Assay Office 225, on page 225. I do not know the circumstances under which the panel reached this conclusion.

The Lowoff is a member both of the panel and of our group and should write all of our group what, if anything, he knows as to those circumstances. If the panel's conclusions were based upon the fact that our group was formed or upon comments made by any member of our group, then we must not leave the situation in limbo. If the panel based their decision on other factors, our position is not so complex.

This is a very serious matter and our group has undertaken a study which others are very much interested in. Many owners of the coins in this category have in good faith loaned us pieces for study. Our group is now formally asked for an opinion by the letter of February 1, 1966.

In my opinion, so much time has elapsed since we began, and so much work has been done, that regardless of delays due to illness of some of our members it is incumbent upon me

Page 2

February 4, 1966

Messrs.

James O. Sloss

George Feld

John J. Pittman

A. Kosoff

group either to give a joint opinion, to state that we cannot reach a joint opinion, or to dissolve or regroup.

Please write your suggestions to each member of the group as to what you feel should be done (1) with respect to answering Ronnie Carr, and (2) with respect to the group's future action.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. MERNMAN NUMISMATIC  
EDUCATION SOCIETY

By \_\_\_\_\_

EPN/ath



A. KOSOFF, Inc. *Numismatists*

• P.O. BOX 456 • ENCINO, CALIFORNIA 91317

• STATE 4-5005 • CABLE AKOINENCAL, LOS ANGELES

February 7, 1966

Messrs.

Eric P. Newman✓

James O. Sloss

George Fuld

John J. Pittman

Gentlemen:

This is in response to a letter from Eric Newman dated February 4th relative to the 1853 U.S. Assay \$20.00 Gold piece, which letter was prompted by correspondence from Ronnie Carr dated February 1, 1966.

As a member both of the Panel which assists the Whitman Publishing Company on the Territorial Section of the Red Book and as a member of this Panel perhaps I can throw some light on the situation.

Of course, a year has now passed and much of what we discussed at the Panel meeting was verbal and very little was written down except conclusions.

The Panel was aware of the work of this group in connection with the Assay piece. I would say that every member of the Panel was aware of the rumors and circumstances surrounding the coin leading to many expressed opinions that a number of so-called proofs were being sold which were not proofs.

There was no attempt to fix a decision that the coins were not genuine.

It seemed, however, that the Panel was overwhelmingly of the decision that the coins which were sold as proofs, or represented as proofs, were not proofs.

The discussion concerning the only known proof, that is the Zabriski specimen, led to the decision to include something in the Red Book cautioning the collector against so-called proofs.

In my opinion, the wording in the Red Book was unfortunate.

I would recommend to this group that we in turn recommend to Mr. Carr, as Chairman of the Panel, that rather than use a negative tone in the Red Book, a notation should replace the present one and the new notation should indicate that the only known proof of this coin is the Zabriski specimen. It might further be pointed out that there is no question about this piece being a proof because it is readily obvious without anything more than the naked eye.

I think this would answer all questions and not throw a stigma on this series.

In regard to the group's future action, I think perhaps summing up of the results of the work done to date would be the first order of business. Actually, this has never been done - when we analyzed the results we would be in a better position to determine whether or not any future action is in order.

Sincerely yours,

A. Kosoff

AK:cl

RONNIE CARR

P. O. Box 1113  
Tulare, California

686-2924  
area code 209

C

O

P

Y

February 21, 1966

Mr. Eric P. Newman  
Eric P. Newman Numismatic Education Society  
6450 Cecil Avenue  
St. Louis 5, Missouri

Dear Eric:

The special panel for the Red Book on "Private Issue Gold" met recently at the Statler Hilton Hotel in Los Angeles.

As you know there is the comment, "Beware of spurious specimens in PROOF", beneath the 1853 (900thous.) United States Assay Office of Gold double eagles in the 19th. edition of the Red Book. This notation was made by our panel because complaints were made that spurious strikes were known. Much has been said since our "added" comment. Some in favor and those against the statement. For those of us that desire to know only the truth, no matter who is involved, it was a most pleasant thought when it was learned you and your special Committee had started an extensive investigation into the matter of determining whether or not certain specimens of the Assay double eagles are spurious or not. Since you and your Committee have examined numerous pieces in question and from all reports dealt with the matter in great depth, our special panel voted at our last meeting to request the opinion of your group on these coins. That is to say, what are your findings as to whether or not our comment of "beware of spurious specimens in proof" is justifiable or not.

We shall wait until we hear from you before we make any final decision on the subject. Trusting your group will have the strength to stand on their convictions one way or another. It is a delicate situation but please above all, let us have your views, I remain,

Cordially,

/s/ Ronnie Carr

Ronnie Carr, Coordinator  
Special Panel on Private Issue Gold for the Red Book

cc: Mr. R. S. Yeoman

P. S. Dick Yeoman has a deadline of March 20th. I must have your comments early enough so that all members of our Committee can be informed in time for a decision. Your immediate attention will be appreciated.

R.



February 25, 1966

Dearest,

George Fuld  
The Kosoff  
John Pittman  
James Stone

Dearlemen:

I am enclosing a copy of a letter dated February 21, 1966 from Bonnie Berry, Coordinator of the Special Panel on Private Issue Gold for the Red Book. As you will note, it makes a specific request of our group for an opinion. I have written to him asking him to have some comment at the panel meeting and whether the vote was unanimous or otherwise.

Earlier this month the Kosoff, George Fuld and I expressed ourselves to our group in an effort to formulate an answer to Bonnie Berry's original inquiry dated February 1, 1966. Unfortunately, no communication was received from Jim Stone or John Pittman. I know Jim is still convalescing from his illness and as yet cannot do what he wants to do. I do not know why John did not comment. The result was that there was no answer given to Berry's February 1 letter. I merely told him to see what the panel wanted.

As to the new letter I have the following suggestions to make to our group:

1. We should advise the panel that the March 20 dead line is not practical for action by our group as it does not leave us enough time.
2. We should obtain a written confirmation that the Red Book, also, wishes our opinion.
3. We should have complete control over the use of our opinion and not permit it to be used by the panel for any purpose other than the Red Book.
4. We should each write a separate opinion as to conclusions, if any, which we have reached in our separate studies. These opinions should be assembled by a date to be determined and unchanged simultaneously among the group. If they can be coordinated into a unified opinion that should be done. If they are divergent there should be a discussion to see if the differences should be resolved.
5. If any member needs further facts (not conclusions) he should ask other members for such facts now.
6. If any member of the group does not wish to give his opinion he should drop out of the group.
7. If a member cannot come to a conclusion he should so state.
8. No one of the group should discuss, release, or publish the conclusions of any member of the group between the date separate opinions are opened and the date when a unified opinion is or is not reached.
9. If a unified opinion is not reached, then the group should be dissolved and each member shall be free to act independently.

Would you let the group know your thinking.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC F. NEWMAN UNIVERSAL EDUCATION  
SOCIETY

4 Acton Street  
Rochester, New York 14615  
March 4, 1966

Messrs.  
George Fuld  
Abe Kosoff  
Eric Newman  
James Sloss

Gentlemen:

I am in agreement with Abe Kosoff's statement of March 1, 1966, "that the Red Book should have a listing - but of a positive rather than negative nature. I would state that there is one known brilliant coin in proof condition and if they want to include that it is the Zabriski-Ferrouk specimen, that would be OK."

I too feel that we should have George Fuld's scientific analysis stated in the most simple language possible so that the panel can come to a conclusion regarding the United States Assay Office of Gold double eagle of 1853.

Sincerely,

*John J. Pittman*  
John J. Pittman

Jr/gc

August 25, 1966

Mr. John J. Pittman  
1 Acton St.,  
Rochester, New York

Dear John:

Under separate cover I am forwarding to you, in accordance with our conversation, a group of pictures involving the U.S. Assay matter which were taken with Goodyear equipment at the instance of George Fald. The probabilities of finding the negatives are minimal.

Since the arbitrators will call for multiple copies of the pictures, I am sending those which I believe are of primary importance and would appreciate it if you would have them rephotographed on a reasonably large negative and about six prints, approximately 4"x10" made of each. Please send all the prints and the negatives back to us.

If you feel any additional prints are desirable for your purposes or for Eastman's purposes, naturally you may feel free to make them.

On a separate sheet I am listing the items which are to be rephotographed.

I will have large size prints made of the items which I had taken here in St. Louis.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC F. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC  
EDUCATION SOCIETY

EFN/atb

Schedule of positive prints to be photographed and  
reprinted

#3 obverse  
#3 reverse  
#5 obverse  
#5 reverse  
#5 large reverse section  
#6 obverse  
#6 reverse  
#6 obverse section  
#7 obverse  
#7 reverse  
#9 obverse  
#9 reverse  
#10 obverse  
#10 reverse  
#12 obverse  
#12 reverse  
#13 large reverse section  
#14 large reverse section  
Edge combination of Nos. 6, 2 and 7  
#2 X-ray  
#3 X-ray  
#4 X-ray  
#5 X-ray  
#6 X-ray  
#7 X-ray

---

Total ..... 25

# 1	0	R
3	0	R
5	0	R
6	0	R
7	0	R
9	0	R
12	0	R

Edges

13	0h + Rev
14	0h + Rev
16	0h + Rev

19	0h + Rev
----	----------

X-Ray

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7



Eleven more ~~Red~~  
photos I had given

#3 Obv + Rev

#5 Obv + Rev

#5 Large reverse section

#6 Obv + Rev

#6 Obv detail

#7 Obv + Rev

#9 Obv + Rev

#10 Obv + Rev

#12 Obv + Rev

~~#13 Obv + Rev~~

#13 Large reverse detail

~~#14 Large Obv + Rev~~

#14 Large Reverse detail

Edge detail of #6, #2 + #7

~~#24 Obverse~~

~~#25 Obv + Reverse~~

#2 X Ray

#3 X Ray

#4 X Ray

#5 X Ray

#6 X Ray

#7 X Ray

Total photos 25

March 12, 1965

Mr. James O. Sloss  
1425 Third Street  
Beaver, Penna.

Dear Jim:

Re: Gerland vs. Ryan

You have been spared all of the gory and weird machinations which have taken place since the Chicago hearing in the above matter.

It will take hours to tell you the highlights but prepare yourself for that at the earliest convenient time in the future. There is enclosed, a copy of the decision.

I imagine you still have your piece and are not going to part with it. There may be much more controversy on Pioneer gold in the near future.

My very kindest regards and best wishes.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN HUMORISTIC  
EDUCATION SOCIETY

EPN/stb

4 Acton Street  
Rochester, N.Y. 14615  
October 20, 1966

Eric R. Newman Numismatic Education Soc.  
6450 Cecil Avenue  
St. Louis 5, Missouri

Dear Eric:

Under separate cover I have sent you the prints you requested in your letter of September 8, 1966. I hope they were all received in good order. Normally, Kodak does not do this kind of work, but they made an exception in this case and did these at their cost, as follows:

24 prints	16 x 20	\$2.00 each	\$48.00
246 prints	8 x 10	.68 each	167.28
sales tax(5%)			<u>10.77</u>
			\$226.05

I returned to you 7 sets of the large prints and 5 sets of the small prints. I kept a set of prints for my own use. My cost for the prints I kept is

3 prints @	\$2.00	\$6.00
41 prints @	.68	27.88
	tax	<u>1.70</u>
		\$35.58

Therefore, \$226.05 less \$35.58 means a charge of \$190.47  
plus shipping charges of 3.68  
Total charges for committee \$194.15

JR/gc

Best regards,

  
John J. Pittman



September 28, 1966

Mr. John Pittman

Eric F. Newman

Dear John:

Would you be nice enough to give me a report on the enlargements which Eastman is making. When can I expect them?

If all of them are sent to me I can distribute a set to the arbitrators, after marking them. I will, of course, make it clear that Eastman Kodak Company is the source of the prints and see that they are properly thanked if you guide me along those lines.

Kindest regards.

Sincerely,

SPK/etb

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

January 19, 1967

Mr. John J. Pittman  
4 Acton Street  
Rochester, New York 14615

Re: Garland vs. Ryan

Dear John:

Thank you for your letter of January 16, 1967. In accordance with your request, a copy of the testimony I gave at the Chicago hearing is enclosed.

I will not be at the continuation of the hearing in Los Angeles and feel that Garland will be pleased that you will be present. I feel that Garland wants you to give testimony. Garland advised me that he will be present.

The Panel now has photographs of the two gold and one silver 20 USAGS pieces which Ford owns. I have seen these photographs and when you see them, in California, or before, you may wish to point out that the dies used for the gold ones conform in characteristics in all respects to the Garland piece dies and that the dies used for the silver one conform in all respects to the dies used to make the Tobiss piece (Mc.6) and the Foran piece (Ma.14).


The Panel has also permitted me the opportunity to examine the Confederate electro and the Seabolt electro which were a topic of testimony at the Chicago hearing and referred to as "sandwich" electros. In each case the center part of the coin is a related genuine coin with a proper edge and the faces were machined down so that electro faces could be used on the related piece. In the case of the Confederate electro reverse the rust spots around the cap have been polished off to some extent as have the border scallops outside the ER in AMERICA. You might wish to comment on the fact that these are very special copies and not routine electros. A routine electro of the Confederate half dollar was also sent in to the Panel by Ford. Details as to who made these electros, where, why, and at whose request, should be brought into evidence as there seems to be conflict in certain testimony and communications with respect to them.

If you have any thoughts to correct, improve, or clarify the enclosed testimony, I would very much appreciate hearing from you.

Kindest regards.

Sincerely yours,

CC:  
Mr. Paul Garland

  
ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC  
EDUCATION SOCIETY

4 Acton Street  
Rochester, N.Y. 14615  
May 17, 1967

Mr. Herbert Sobieski  
P.O. Box 522, Church St. Sta.  
New York 6, N.Y.

Dear Herb:

As suggested by you, I returned to you, strongly by registered mail (registered #50101) the 10.00 check which you said place that you were kind enough to make available to me for study. The check had been cashed in a safe deposit box since you sent it to me on December 21st, 1965 (registration #10015).

As I told you in New York, the package has not been opened since we have not yet had occasion to use the piece again in the study we are making. Undoubtedly we will need the piece in the future. You told me that you would not sell the piece nor that you would make it available to us again in the future. Thank you again for cooperating with us.

With best regards,

J/Jc  
cc: Eric W. Allen

John J. Flannery

Thank you

John J. Flannery  
We have been very kind to you and we are very grateful to you. We have been very kind to you and we are very grateful to you.

*John*

4 Acton Street  
Rochester, N.Y. 14615  
May 19, 1967

Mr. Eric Newman  
6450 Cecil Avenue  
St. Louis 5, Mo.

Dear Eric:

Recently we discussed the possibility of comparing two items for discrepancies. Quite a number of years ago Eastman Kodak Company made a very good comparator which could be used for this purpose.

Since Kodak does not normally sell this type of equipment, the rights to manufacture and sell the comparator were sold to Excello Corporation. Their representative in St. Louis is the Louis A. Hoppe Co. 148 Hanley Industrial Court, St. Louis 63144, tele. 314-647-3420.

I suggest that you get in touch with these people and make some comparisons of different coins. I believe you should have no difficulty in seeing discrepancies in coins in the order of magnitude we discussed (.0001-.0002 inches). If this does not work, please let me know.

With best regards,

  
John J. Pittman

JP/gc



**CONFIDENTIAL**

Confidential

September 24, 1964

TO: E P Newman                      A Kossog  
     J J Pitman                     J Perlman, Esq.  
     Dr J O Sloss

Subject: Study Report of U S Assay \$20 Gold Coins  
         of 1853. Progress Report No. 1

1. Composition using x-ray fluorescence data of J H Kavanaugh.

Composition of metals is as follows, confirming his calc.

<u>Coin</u>	<u>Fineness</u>	<u>Sn</u>	<u>Ag</u>	<u>Zn</u>	<u>Cu</u>	<u>% Total</u>
2	900	0.57	8.20	0.22	0.43	9.42
5	900	0.57	9.15	0.20	0.69	10.64
6	900	0.60	9.60	0.20	0.17	10.65
7	900	0.68	8.50	0.20	0.82	10.09

No confidence limits calculated. Other raw spectroscopic data on all seven coins needed from JOS to be sent to GJF as soon as possible.

2. Studies on crystal structure by x-ray diffraction have been started. Data not yet available.
3. The following coins have also been shipped to GJF.  
A "proof" coin (AMK) to GJF for study, two unc. 900 fine coins dating back to before 1920 by (Mrs RHN) and "first strike" by (HNF) enlarged photos of Garrett (JHU) coins have been ordered.
4. Enlarged 8 x 10 photomicrographs of coins 1 to 7 have been made although not all complete. Also the whole coin has been photographed for identification. Photos to be sent with coins to EPN in about 10 days with all data.

On photographs note frame around box on reverse of #5, 6, 7 and held around eagle on #6. Also note drive edges on #5, 7, and die break from "Y" of Assay to border. Also note lower (6:00 o'clock) bottom of concentric rings in photos. Edges will also be photographed.

Only 2 prints of each were made but negatives are on file.

5. See attached table.

  
George J Fuld

GJF/ba

TABLE I

172  
4/25/1

Coin No.	Marked Fineness	Wgt gms.	Based on Pure Gold				Diameter in inches	
			Wgt gms.	Wgt troy oz.	Wgt avd oz.	Grains	Min.	Max.
1	0.884	33.9544	30.016	0.9650	1.0589	463.22	1.3470	1.3475
2	0.900	33.3738	30.036	0.9657	1.0596	463.53	1.3375	1.3385
3	0.900	33.3945	30.055	0.9663	1.0603	463.82	1.3500	1.3515
4	0.900	33.4228	30.080	0.9671	1.0612	464.21	1.3450	1.3565
"Proof" 5	0.900	33.4738	30.126	0.9686	1.0628	464.92	1.3585	1.3595
"Semi-Proof" 6	0.900	33.4946	30.145	0.9692	1.0635	465.21	1.3590	1.3593
"Proof" 7	0.900	33.3686	30.031	0.9655	1.0595	463.45	1.3580	1.3595
8 (RHN)	0.900	33.3445	30.010	0.9648	1.0587	463.12	1.3450	1.3451
"Unc" 9 (RHN)	0.900	33.4439	30.0995	0.9677	1.0619	464.51	1.3500	1.3505

September 18, 1968

CONFIDENTIAL

TO: E. P. Newman  
J. J. Pitman  
Dr. J. O. Sloas

A. Kasser  
G. Kaplan  
J. Picotter, Esq.

From G. J. Fuld, P. O. Box 9025, Jackson, O 43201

Subject: Study Report on U. S. Mint  
and Gold Coins of 1859. (Source report 7)

1. X-ray diffraction studies of coins # 3, 4, 5, and 7 have been completed.  
Coin # 2 and 6 show the expected pattern and are well annealed.  
Coin # 3 and 4 show spots, pattern caused by a mechanical casting.  
Coin # 5 shows highly oriented pattern and is of a high annealed steel plate.  
Copies of the x-ray diffraction of these pieces are being sent.  
Photos of #1 and 6 are enclosed as well as you.
2. A full series of 8x10" photographs of coins 1 through 7 have been completed and 2 full sets made. A full set is being forwarded to you (several additional prints are being included to the rest of owners of sets).
3. Another proof coin has been located (1859) and is being submitted for examination.
4. Coins 1 to 7 should be turned in to you on September 18. Coins 8 and 9 to be returned directly to Mr. J. O. Sloas.
5. After discussion with St. George and a release agreement on the pieces until finally decided to to the Treasury which included the return of the original seller. This would be by letter to S. S. as well as newspapers simultaneously.
6. Note to SPW-if enlargements of any parts needed of any coin area, let GJF know and he'll obtain.
7. Color reference photos of coins 3, 4 and 5 have been made and extra copies have been ordered.
8. GJF will be on vacation Oct. 5 to 11, so if you or will be information to him (plus coins) before then.
9. GJF scheduled to address SNA show on December 1, 1968, everything cleared by them, these pieces will be the subject of discussion.
10. My lawyer (J. Darlman) is drafting an agreement on the legal aspects of releasing information on these pieces. A collection of letters to owners of these pieces will be given.



CONFIDENTIAL

October 13, 1964

TO: Messrs. J. Sloer, J. Pittman, E. P. Newman, A. Kossof, and  
J. Perlman, Esc. (only distribution)

FROM: G. J. Fold

SUBJECT: Study Report #3 on US Assay 1853  
\$20.00 Gold Pieces

I. The following list is extremely confidential. It is based on the best available information as to present locations of all proof and semi-proof \$20 1853 Assay pieces.

1. The proof specimen from Farook collection. Lot 349, 1954. This, presumably, is the Bell specimen, (Stacks 1944), plate in Farook is indistinct. Mrs. RHN states when she examined in 1954, it was a polished unc. piece. Piece to be sent Thursday, October 15th, to EPN for study.
2. Tobias piece (see advertisement, Oct 1964 Scrapbook), a "semi-proof" already studied.
3. The JDS "proof" specimen - obtained in 1958, has already been studied.
4. The Paul Garland "proof" has already been examined.
5. The duPont Collection has either "proof" or "semi-proof" specimen. Not available to study.
6. The A. M. Kagan collection has a "proof" specimen. Not been made available for study.
7. W. Foreman has "semi-proof" in his collection. Piece is collateral for loan and not available at present, but can be examined eventually.
8. Gaston DiBello has "semi-proof". This piece will be available October 20th, after he returns from Europe.
9. Federal Brand, Lot 3338 of the August 1964 ANA auction sale sold a "semi-proof" apparently. Plate in catalog. Seller will not divulge owner, buyer of piece, or present whereabouts. Had estimate of \$4500 and statement had been offered at \$6500.

10. Ben Murrell of Texas owns semi-proof. Has B. Kosoff contacted?

The following people have apparently owned specimens, but are difficult to contact for various reasons. Some names may not be spelled right!

11. Painter had proof(?). Present whereabouts not known.
12. Messrs. Carr and Clifford of California have had or have specimen(s).
13. Robert Betcholder has sold two (2) semi-proofs in the past six years. Cannot recall who they were sold to.
14. W. Amerlingmeier, of Long Island, at one time owned (or had interest in) proof specimens). Cannot contact.
15. JTF of NY is rumored to still own two proofs and possibly a semi-proof.

## II. Enlargements of Field of Coin #6:

Enlargements of particular areas has been sent to Messrs. Newman and Pittman. In the writer's opinion, these concentric marks made by lathe facing tool using automatic cross feed device. Although automatic screw thread - (feed device) is old, automatic cross feed is not as old. Dates should be verified.

- III. Host of raw data on x-ray fluorescence of coins 1 through 7 are to be supplied immediately to GJF by JOS.

## IV. Details of Experiment - X-ray diffraction data

Machine - GE XRD-3  
Radiation - Cu  $1.5405 \text{ \AA}$  ( $K\alpha$ )  
Filter - Ni  
Kilovolts - 35  
Milliamps - 23  
Specimen to film distance - 5 cm  
Back reflection technique  
X-rays pass through two 0.025" pin-holes.  
The sample and film are held stationary.  
Film used Kodak "No-screen" X-ray film.

Samples #2 and #3 show small grain size and random orientation.

Sample #4 shows the small grain size and preferred orientation.

Sample #6 shows small grain size and very preferred orientation.

Samples #5 and #7 show larger grain size. The diffraction line angles are different.

For details on grain structure, Metals Handbook, Vol I, Eighth Edition (emer Soc Metals) 1961, p 1186, especially center paragraph, they state, to reduce grain size of cast Au-Ag-Cu alloys, use of Iridium or rhenium plus ruthenium is practical, especially in dental field.

For details on back reflection method, see Klug & Alexander, "X-ray Diffraction Procedures", John Wiley (1954) p. 339 et seq. See also p. 555 for information on preferred orientation.

For details on grain size, and effect on X-ray diffraction pattern, see Klug & Alexander, p. 231 et seq. On p. 233 "spottiness of diffraction lines" is mentioned in the first paragraph. Examples studied by X-ray were held stationary!!

Studies on X-ray diffraction of "counterfeit" and real one-dollar gold coins were done by GJP with cooperation of Prof Robert Conlay of MIT Metallurgy Department in May-June 1960. Similar work done by Dr V Cline-Steffenelli about the same time with cooperation of NBS. Information on this work appeared in 1965 "Coin World" by Stefanelli and subsequent article by GJP. Exact references can be obtained if wanted. (abstracted in Numismatic Literature).

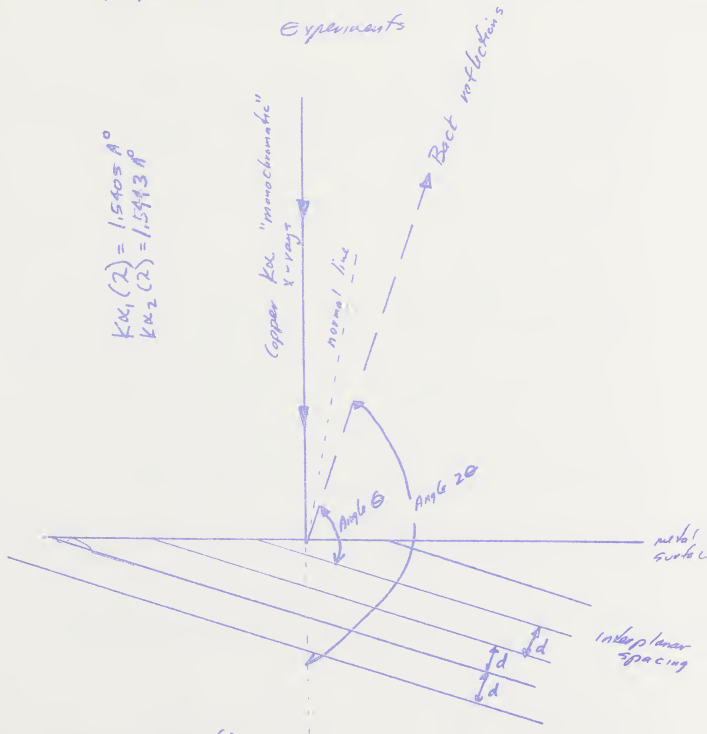
The grain spottiness on coins 5 and 7 identical type to those found on cast gold dollars in 1960. (original X-ray film of one gold coin sent to J Pittman on 10/12).

Calculation of Bragg's angles, spacing,  $K\alpha_1$ , and  $K\alpha_2$  are given from appended table calculated directly from X-ray film (not contact prints)



FIGURE I

Schematic of X-ray diffraction experiments



$$\begin{aligned} \lambda_{K\alpha_1}(Z) &= 1.5405 \text{ \AA} \\ \lambda_{K\alpha_2}(Z) &= 1.5443 \text{ \AA} \end{aligned}$$

Bragg Equation

$$n\lambda = 2d \sin \theta$$

$\lambda$  = wavelength in  $\text{\AA}$  (angstroms)

$n$  = constant (1 in this case)

$d$  = interplanar spacing

$\theta$  = Angle indicated in figure

Note: 2 rings on spectra, since polycrystalline material since metal is an alloy.

GVE 10/12/20

TABLE I  
CALCULATIONS FROM X-RAY DIFFRACTION FILMS

Coin	$\frac{\tan 2 \theta}{K \propto_1}$	$\frac{\tan 2 \theta}{K \propto_2}$	$\frac{\tan 2 \theta}{K \propto_1}$	$\frac{\tan 2 \theta}{K \propto_2}$
#2	0.9865	0.9615	0.4055	0.3765
#3	$\longleftrightarrow 0.9745 \longrightarrow$		$\longleftrightarrow 0.3960 \longrightarrow$	
#4	0.9870	0.9630	0.411	0.3795
#5	0.9495	0.9245	0.3705	0.3345
#6	0.9865	0.9605	0.4070	0.3770
#7	$\longleftrightarrow 0.9495 \longrightarrow$		$\longleftrightarrow 0.3730 \longrightarrow$	
Angle equivalences from tangents.				
0.9870 = 44° - 37.5'				
0.9495 = 43° - 31'				
0.9620 = 43° - 53.5'				
0.9245 = 42° - 45'				

See Bragg's Law in text, Klug & Alexander, p 120.

TABLE II  
CALCULATIONS FROM X-RAY DIFFRACTION FILMS

Coin	$K\alpha_1$ $\frac{d}{\text{\AA}}$	$K\alpha_2$ $\frac{d}{\text{\AA}}$	$K\alpha_1$ $\frac{d}{\text{\AA}}$	$K\alpha_2$ $\frac{d}{\text{\AA}}$
#2	.833	.833	.784	.785
#3	$\longleftrightarrow .833 \longrightarrow$		$\longleftrightarrow .785 \longrightarrow$	
#4	.833	.833	.785	.785
#5	.829	.829	.782	.782
#6	.833	.833	.785	.785
#7	$\longleftrightarrow .829 \longrightarrow$		$\longleftrightarrow .782 \longrightarrow$	

Data good to  $\pm 0.001 \text{ \AA}$

Significant differences between #5 and #7 from rest of pieces.

October 16, 1964

To:

Messrs. John J. Pittman, James O. Sloss and George Fuld

From:

Eric P. Newman

I received the enclosed data from John Ford in a letter of October 11, 1964. He has no objection to my sending it to you.

I have received the Bell-Farouk proof U.S. Assay #20 piece and after studying it will send it to Sloss or Fuld for X-ray diffraction spectrography and/or X-ray fluorescence.

EPN/atb

October 18, 1964

To: Messrs. J. Gloss, E.P. Newman, J. Pittman, A. Kossoff

From: G.V. FULD

Comments on X-Ray Diffraction  
Study of H<sub>2</sub>O Assay Coins

We went back and checked the spacing of the X-ray's taken of the dollar gold pieces at M.I.T. in 1960. This identical work was done under direction of Stottanelli at the NBS.

The difference in the "d" value between the acknowledged cast counterfeit and a real gold dollar was exactly 0.003 Å. The values of "d", assuming a 5 cm distance (which may not be exact as we don't have MIT Lab record) was for the real piece

$$R_1 = 0.840 \text{ Å}$$

$$R_2 = 0.791 \text{ Å}$$

For the cast piece

$$F_1 = 0.837 \text{ Å}$$

$$F_2 = 0.788 \text{ Å}$$

Am in receipt of VF's "Authentication" letter and would sure like to see this thing finished up promptly!!!



**CONFIDENTIAL**

November 11, 1964

TO: Messrs J Sloss, J Pittman, E P Newman, A Kossof, and  
J Perelman, Esq. (only distribution)

FROM: G J Fuld

SUBJECT: Study Report #4

- I. While awaiting the report of the Farouk proof specimen from JOS, as well as the dB specimen of the first strike I thought you should be aware of some of the following developments.
1. Since I have been working seriously in trying to get Goodyear into the activation analysis field, I mentioned to our contact at Atomic International whether this type of technique would be available for use on coins. Our conversation was over half an hour, but I am sending a carbon copy of a follow up letter from him. However, I should point out that I mentioned that Dr Pro of the Treasury Department Laboratory has done considerable work on activation analysis for the Secret Service and had confirmed that certain of the 1943 copper cents were undoubtedly mint products and, in fact, the Secret Service has found the man at the mint who caused them to be made in 1943. I expect to talk to Dr Pro shortly on an unofficial basis to see if I can elucide further information.
2. The ad in the Numismatist in July 1963, page 997 was inserted by LSW in an effort to find out more information on these pieces as he definitely suspected the origin of them. He felt this would be his investment in helping unravel the mystery. He gave me the address of one man at least who owns another first strike (or proof) which is Mr William C Rhodes, Kinney Building, Greeley, Colorado.
3. I have talked to the Warner-Swasey Company in Cleveland which is possibly the oldest machine tool maker in the country and am waiting to hear from their patent attorney. They believe that the automatic cross-slide for lathe was invented approximately about 1875 and they are sure that they were building machines (not in quantity) at least around 1900 this way. It seems very unlikely that such a machine was at the U S Assay Office in San Francisco in 1853. Will confirm definitely.



4. Please look carefully at the photograph of Coin #9 and the die break from AS of Assay to 6 o'clock. Also, observe the beginning of a die break from the A of Assay on Coin #5 and the fact that this break is entirely missing from Coin #10 (the John Hopkins specimen obtained by Mr Garrett, who died in 1890).
5. In the next few weeks I will draft a preliminary (laymans) paper discussing how one can study questionable coins.
6. JOS is to please rush the last of the raw x-ray fluorescence spectroscopic data to GJF.
7. As soon as the Farouk piece obtained x-ray diffraction and photo micrographs will be immediately obtained.
8. Can EPN contact JJF to see if he will have ANS take photographs of his proof coins (1 and 2) and then have them enlarged to an 8 x 10 print for study.
9. In response to AK's request about the Murrel coins, I have checked the situation in Dallas-Ft Worth and both Universities are rather small but I would assume that one of them would have a metallurgy department. All that would be required would be a x-ray diffraction made by the back reflection method using copper Cu K $\alpha$  at 35 KV approximately with a specimen to film distance of approximately 5 cm plus an x-ray fluorescence spectroscopic analysis of the two pieces. If he can contact one of the two Universities (I believe these are SMU and Texas Christian), or one of the local test labs I am sure that they can have this done for him. If they will give us even the raw data my people can calculate it for him. In addition, I would like to have the weight of each specimen in grains or grams to 3 or 4 decimal places as well as a good 4 x 5 photograph of both, and, preferably, the negatives used so that we can do our microscopic work directly from them.
10. I talked to Paul Garland this week-end and he stated that as far as he knew his specimen came from Ryan ex Shilton, ex Kolman. Kolman states that the specimen in the ANA sale was not his but consigned, not sold, and returned to owner, but he will not divulge his name, (could this be Clifford?).

Any further information directed to me will certainly be appreciated.

  
George J Fuld



## GENERAL ATOMIC

DIVISION OF GENERAL DYNAMICS CORPORATION

P O BOX 608 SAN DIEGO CALIFORNIA 92112

November 5, 1964

Ref. TER No. 1826

Dr. G. J. Fuld  
Goodyear Tire & Rubber  
P. O. Box 9035  
Akron, Ohio 44305

Dear Dr. Fuld:

Confirming our recent telephone conversation we are sending you the enclosed booklet about the General Atomic Participant Program in Activation Analysis which we believe you will find to be of interest. We suggest that you may wish to contact Dr. Maynard Pro at the U. S. Treasury Department Internal Revenue Service, National Office Laboratory-Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Branch, Washington 25, D. C. Dr. Pro has had considerable experience in the utilization of activation analysis in determining the authenticity of rare coins. I am sure he would find your work of considerable interest.

When we may be of further service, particularly with respect to your program at Goodyear, please be sure to let us know.

Sincerely,

R. M. Watkins  
Activation Analysis Service

RMW:dbt  
enclosures



January 15, 1965

Messrs.  
James C. Wloss  
John J. Pittman  
A. Kosoff  
George Fuld

Gentlemen:

The General Counsel of the Treasury Department has given his opinion that the United States Assay Office Gold Coins are not obligations of the United States Government and, therefore, the Secret Service has no authority to investigate matters concerning such pieces.

The coins delivered to the Secret Service are being returned.

Very truly yours,

ERIC F. UEGMAN

EYE/atb

April 5, 1965

Dr. James G. Sloss

Eric P. Newman

Dear Jim:

The three coins which the Secret Service had are now returned to me. George had them for a little over a week and I called him to urge their return.

I am sending back the Farouk piece to Kosoff as he has insisted upon it.

For the moment Ford is angry with me for not telling him everything I know but I have told him that I am working with a group and that my understanding is that I am not free, at this time, to give him the information which the group has gathered. I explained to him that this is the reason why the group was so shocked at Fuld's action.

Fuld is very upset about not being reimbursed for his costs and has sent me all of his bills. This is a matter which will have to be straightened out promptly. Naturally, he does not realize the rest of us also spent money.

Kindest regards,

Sincerely,

EPN/atb

April 16, 1965

Messrs.

Dr. James O. Sloss  
Dr. George Fuld  
Mr. John J. Pittman  
Mr. A. Kosoff

Gentlemen:

George Fuld has asked for reimbursement for his expenses in connection with research on the U.S. Assay Office \$20 pieces. He has sent me detailed bills for \$112.55 for photography, \$39.77 for long distance calls, and \$11.15 for postage, this constituting a total of \$163.47.

I have today received from Fuld his correspondence, notations, photographs, etc. constituting his complete file, except for negatives, which he has retained.

Naturally, others have expended some money in connection with their research, principally postage and telephone.

I would like to suggest that each of you comment to Jim Sloss about George's request. Should the owners be asked to participate in any way before the work is completed? Should the costs be divided between the group working on it? Do other members of the group have expenses which they wish to report?

The Secret Service has returned the coins which were turned over to them. The Farouk piece has been returned to Abe Kosoff. My personal specimen has been returned to me. Several other borrowed pieces are in my bank vault.

If there are any other thoughts or suggestions any of you have, please send copies to all members of the group.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN  
P.O. Box 14020  
St. Louis, Missouri 63178

EPN/atb

July 6, 1965

Messrs.

Dr. James O. Sloss, Dr. Geo. Fuld,

John J. Pittman, A. Kosoff

Eric P. Newman

As you may have noticed in the 1966 RED BOOK, on page 225, the 1853 U.S. Assay Office 120 piece 900 fine has below it the comment:

"Beware of spurious specimens in proof condition."

On page 213 there is a list of a special panel of 13 persons who have participated in the revision.

On page 244 there are a group of what are called "exceptional" pieces which it is stated are under scientific research and study.

Since I do not know who might be undertaking scientific research and study of the "exceptional" pieces, I would like to know if any of our committee knows their names or what is being done.

I also would like to clear up the open matter of George Fuld's expenses as there are a couple of you I have not heard from.

Sincerely yours,

EN/-tb

September 28, 1965

## MEMORANDUM

TO Dr. James W. Sloss

FROM Eric P. Newman

Dear Jim:

As you may have heard, Paul E. Garland had his car burglarized and a large quantity of numismatic material taken away from him. He is now asking for the return of his USAO \$20 piece.

Would you please confirm to me which number has been assigned to his piece and if I might have permission to return it directly to him. He, apparently, is going to ask for his money back from the party from whom he bought it.

I am enclosing a copy of the letter I am writing to him.

I hope you have fully recovered your health and since I just returned from my vacation, I hope to be talking to you, as always.

Sincerely,

EPN/etb

October 5, 1965

Mr. James O. Sloss  
1825 Third Street  
Beaver, Tenn.

Dear Jim:

In accordance with your request, I am returning all of the USAOS 120 pieces, which I have in my possession, except my own. These consist of:

The break piece, with original holder, which is to be returned to the Social, insured for \$6500;

#5 which you said belonged to a Garland, and which he wishes returned promptly to his at 604 Mountain View Avenue, Maryville, Tennessee, 37601, as he wishes to return it to the person he bought it from;

#7, which I believe belongs to you;

#15, a double-struck piece; and

#3.

You stated that you wished to have color photographs of all of these and, if you do have them, I would certainly enjoy receiving a copy.

Please return Garland's piece, promptly, as he is anxious to receive it and has been studying it a long time.

I am so glad that you are feeling better and are back at your practice.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC D. MORGAN MONTEAGUE  
EDUCATION SOCIETY

EFM/nd

REGISTERED MAIL;  
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED



## MEMORANDUM

October 25, 1965

TO Dr. James M. Sloss

FROM Eric P. Newman

Dear Jim:

Abe wants his U.S. Assay Office piece back, promptly, by registered air mail, insured for \$6500.00. I hope you have already finished with it and that it can be put on its way forthwith.

Will you also let me know whether Garland has his piece back as yet.

I believe you were going to send me color pictures as you are, apparently, taking them.

I am enclosing a copy of Abe's letter - which requires immediate action.

Sincerely,

EPN/atb

February 4, 1968

Messrs.

James O. Sloss  
George Fuld  
John J. Pittman  
A. Kosoff

Gentlemen:

I am writing to you as members of the study group formed in 1964 with respect to the U.S. 1853 Assay Office \$20 pieces.

There is enclosed herewith a copy of letter which we just received from Ronnie Carr dated February 1, 1966. We construe this letter to be addressed to the group as a whole.

Ronnie Carr, as stated on page 213 of the 1966 Guide Book, is the coordinator of a special panel on Private Gold, which panel consists of thirteen persons there named. The Guide Book states that it includes the consensus of the findings and the conclusions of that panel. One of the comments so included, as you know, is "beware of spurious specimens in 'proof' condition," under the 1853 U.S. Assay Office \$20, on page 225. I do not know the circumstances under which the panel reached this conclusion.

Abe Kosoff is a member both of the panel and of our group and should write all of our group what, if anything, he knows as to those circumstances. If the panel's conclusions were based upon the fact that our group was formed or upon comments made by any member of our group, then we must not leave the situation in limbo. If the panel based their decision on other factors, our position is not so complex.

This is a very serious matter and our group has undertaken a study which others are very much interested in. Many owners of the coins in this category have in good faith loaned us pieces for study. Our group is now formally asked for an opinion by the letter of February 1, 1966.

In my opinion, so much time has elapsed since we began, and so much work has been done, that regardless of delays due to illness of some of our members it is incumbent upon our

Page 2

February 4, 1966

Messrs.

James O. Sloss

George Fuld

John J. Pittman

A. Kosoff

group either to give a joint opinion, to state that we cannot reach a joint opinion, or to dissolve or regroup.

Please write your suggestions to each member of the group as to what you feel should be done (1) with respect to answering Ronnie Carr, and (2) with respect to the group's future action.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC  
EDUCATION SOCIETY

By  \_\_\_\_\_

EPN/atb

February 9, 1966

Messrs.  
James O. Sloss  
George Fuld  
John J. Pittman  
A. Kosoff

Gentlemen:

The letter of Abe Kosoff to our group dated February 7, 1966 is most helpful. It states that the Red Book Panel concluded that the type of USAOG \$20 brilliant surface pieces we have examined are not proofs. It stated that the panel did not attempt to decide whether the brilliant surface pieces are genuine or not. However, the wording which the panel put in the Red Book used the words "spurious specimens" and did not use the words "spurious proofs". I understand that the wording was sent to the panel members before it was submitted for publication and I assume there were no objections. Nevertheless, I think the panel should have an opportunity to reconsider what they intended to state.

I would like to suggest that if the panel, or a majority of its members, wish the opinion of our group that a written request signed by all of the panel members desiring it should be sent to us.

I do not believe we should suggest any type of wording to the panel without knowing what our group as a whole feel as to the merits of the issue.

The panel, apparently, will meet in Los Angeles about February 17 and your thoughts as to what our group should do should be circulated, immediately, so that it is clear how you feel as to Abe's suggestion, or to my suggestion, or to that of any other member of our group.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb

February 25, 1966

Messrs.  
George Fuld  
Abe Kosoff  
John Pittman  
James Sloss

Gentlemen:

I am enclosing a copy of a letter dated February 21, 1966 from Ronnie Carr, Coordinator of the Special Panel on Private Issue Gold for the Red Book. As you will note, it makes a specific request of our group for an opinion. I have written to him asking him to name those present at the panel meeting and whether the vote was unanimous or otherwise.

Earlier this month Abe Kosoff, George Fuld and I expressed ourselves to our group in an effort to formulate an answer to Ronnie Carr's original inquiry dated February 4, 1966. Unfortunately, no communication was received from Jim Sloss or John Pittman. I know Jim is still convalescing from his illness and as yet cannot do what he wants to do. I do not know why John did not comment. The result was that there was no answer given to Carr's February 4 letter. I merely told him to see what the panel wanted.

As to the new letter I have the following suggestions to make to our group:

1. We should advise the panel that the March 20 dead line is not practical for action by our group as it does not leave us enough time.
2. We should obtain a written confirmation that the Red Book, also, wishes our opinion.
3. We should have complete control over the use of our opinion and not permit it to be used by the panel for any purpose other than the Red Book.
4. We should each write a separate opinion as to conclusions, if any, which we have reached in our separate studies. These opinions should be assembled by a date to be determined and exchanged simultaneously among the group. If they can be coordinated into a unified opinion that should be done. If they are divergent there should be a discussion to see if the differences should be resolved.
5. If any member needs further facts (not conclusions) he should ask other members for such facts now.
6. If any member of the group does not wish to give his opinion he should drop out of the group.
7. If a member cannot come to a conclusion he should so state.
8. No one of the group should discuss, release, or publish the conclusions of any member of the group between the date separate opinions are opened and the date when a unified opinion is or is not reached.
9. If a unified opinion is not reached, then the group should be dissolved and each member shall be free to act independently.

Would you let the group know your thinking.

Sincerely yours,



ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION  
SOCIETY

4 Acton Street  
Rochester, New York 14615  
March 19, 1966

Mr. Eric P. Newman  
6450 Cecil Avenue  
St. Louis 5, Missouri

Dear Eric:

Thank you for your letter of March 15th. As you surmised, my letter of March 4th crossed George Fuld's letter of March 7th.

I of course agree that our group should first endeavor to prepare a consolidated opinion before we give our findings and conclusions to the Redbook panel.

Sincerely,

  
John J. Pittman

JF/gc

cc: Messrs. Fuld, Rosoff, Sloss.

John J. Pittman

Eric P. Newman

September 8, 1966

Under separate cover there are enclosed the following negatives of pictures taken by George Fuld and myself in connection with the U.S. Assay Office research:

#1	Obv.	Rev.	
3	"	"	Edges of #2, 6, & 7 (one negative)
5	"	"	XRay Diffraction photos of
6	"	"	#2
7	"	"	3
9	"	"	4
12	"	"	5
13	"	"	6
14	"	"	7
16	"	"	
19	"	"	Small negatives (4 in number) of coins #20, 21, 22, 23, 24 & 25.

This totals 33 negatives. The small negatives have a total of 11 coins pictured so that 40 faces of coins are involved.

The only difference between the group of positives I previously forwarded and this group is that coin #1 (obv. and rev.) is substituted for coin #10; and the 6 XRay films are added.

There will be required for distribution one for each arbitrator and one for each side of the controversy, of each picture, making a total of five prints. If you want a set then six of each should be prepared.

All prints should be 8 X 10 except the large reverse sections required of coins # 5, 13 and 14 which should be as big as the positives sent previously. Those large positives are a combination of two 8x 10 prints and I am hopeful that Eastman can use large paper and do it in one print. If so please make two extra large prints of these, as I need one and I want to have one to give to Fuld.

The small negatives containing coins #20 through 25 should be printed so that only one coin is on an 8 x 10 print.

The large blow up of a portion of coin #6 should be the same as the positive furnished approximately.

The special enlargement of portions of coins #5, 6, 13 and 16 does not change the requirement for regular 8 x 10 of those coins.

I am sure that numismatics and all those connected with it will be appreciative of the service that you and Eastman are performing in this matter. If there are any questions write or call. By day 314 MA 1 7300 ---- by night 314 PA 7 0850.

As you fully realize prompt action is required. Thanks.

for

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

4 Acton Street  
Rochester, N.Y. 14615  
October 20, 1966

Eric R. Newman Numismatic Education Soc.  
6450 Cecil Avenue  
St. Louis 5, Missouri

Dear Eric:

Under separate cover I have sent you the prints you requested in your letter of September 8, 1966. I hope they were all received in good order. Normally, Kodak does not do this kind of work, but they made an exception in this case and did these at their cost, as follows:

24 prints	16 x 20	\$2.00 each	\$48.00
246 prints	8 x 10	.68 each	167.28
		sales tax(5%)	<u>10.77</u>
			\$226.05

I returned to you 7 sets of the large prints and 5 sets of the small prints. I kept a set of prints for my own use. My cost for the prints I kept is

3 prints @	\$2.00	\$6.00
41 prints @	.68	27.88
	tax	<u>1.70</u>
		\$35.58

Therefore, \$226.05 less \$35.58 means a charge of \$190.47  
plus shipping charges of 3.68  
Total charges for committee \$194.15

Jr/gc

Best regards,

  
John J. Pittman



ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

January 19, 1967

Mr. John J. Pittman  
4 Acton Street  
Rochester, New York 14615

Re: Garland vs. Swan

Dear John:

Thank you for your letter of January 16, 1967. In accordance with your request, a copy of the testimony I gave at the Chicago hearing is enclosed.

I will not be at the continuation of the hearing in Los Angeles and feel that Garland will be pleased that you will be present. I feel that Garland wants you to give testimony. Garland advised me that he will be present.

The Panel now has photographs of the two gold and one silver \$20 USAGO pieces which Ford owns. I have seen these photographs and when you see them, in California, or before, you may wish to point out that the dies used for the gold ones conform in characteristics in all respects to the Garland piece dies and that the dies used for the silver one conform in all respects to the dies used to make the Tobias piece (No.6) and the Foran piece (No.14).

The Panel has also permitted me the opportunity to examine the Confederate electro and the Schultz electro which were a topic of testimony at the Chicago hearing and referred to as "sandwich" electros. In each case the center part of the coin is a related genuine coin with a proper edge and the faces were machined down so that electro faces could be used on the related piece. In the case of the Confederate electro reverse the rust spots around the cap have been polished off to some extent as have the border scallops outside the ER in AMERICA. You might wish to comment on the fact that these are very special copies and not routine electros. A routine electro of the Confederate half dollar was also sent in to the Panel by Ford. Details as to who made these electros, where, why, and at whose request, should be brought into evidence as there seems to be conflict in certain testimony and communications with respect to them.

If you have any thoughts to correct, improve, or clarify the enclosed testimony, I would very much appreciate hearing from you.

Kindest regards.

Sincerely yours,

CC:  
Mr. Paul Garland

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC  
EDUCATION SOCIETY

4 Acton Street  
Rochester, N.Y. 14615  
January 16, 1967

Mr. Eric Newman  
Eric P. Newman Numismatic Education Society  
6450 Cecil Avenue  
St. Louis 5, Missouri

Dear Eric:

Thank you for your letter of December 29, 1966, returning the 1738 curiosity. I too believe it is a base metal casting gold plated.

Thanks for the congratulations on being able to help solve Carson's burglary. I just hope we can catch more of them.

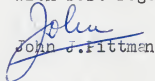
Some time ago I received a letter from Ronnie Carr stating that the next meeting on the Garland-Ryan matter will be held on February 9, 1967, at the Statler Hilton Hotel in Los Angeles during the convention of the Numismatic Association of Southern California. Will you be there? I hope to be able to attend. Ronnie states in his letter:

"By writing directly to Mr. Eric P. Newman, you may now obtain a copy of his testimony that was given during the A.N.A. convention at Chicago."

I would appreciate it if you would send me a copy of your testimony so I may read it carefully before going to Los Angeles. Thank you very much.

I shall be looking forward to hearing from you and to seeing you in Los Angeles.

With best regards,

  
John J. Fittman

JF/gc

There were seven brilliant proof coins in the 1957-58 hoard that I (and NN) obtained through the efforts of Paul Franklin. These coins were all from the same obverse and reverse dies, and we found no appreciable difference in the die states. Some characteristics of the obverse die are: Left end lacking on scroll; 9 re-engraved; first O, first punched too high; nick in die on rim over last S in STATES; die defective above E in UNITED. There are many different reverse dies for the '53 USAOG twenties; the reverse die used for the proofs we call "Rev. A." It can be easily identified by a tiny tit near the top of the right stance of the letter "N" of UNITED, and three dash-like defects above (and to the left of) the "C" of CALIFORNIA. There are also two fine die breaks at the bottom of the reverse, in the peripheral field.

I explained to you how these coins were purchased on the telephone. All were wrapped in old, yellowed linen handkerchiefs. The weight of each piece was marked in lead pencil on the handkerchiefs; there were some notations as to alloy differences re these seven coins. Franklin was not able to get the handkerchiefs, nor was he able to obtain a family journal, which would be a very fruitful source of data. However, he did manage to copy down the weight of each of these proof coins, from the handkerchiefs. As soon as we got the coins to the office, Walter Breen and I weighed each of them. Subsequently, the coins were sold, with the exception of two specimens, which are now both in my personal collection. I will list the seven proofs, and give you the weight of each as obtained with the coin, as weighed by Breen and myself, and tell you to whom we initially sold each piece. Where possible, I will tell you the present whereabouts of each specimen:

518½ Grains (WB-JF) Handkerchief	518 Grains	Ford coll.
516	516	Ford coll.
514½	514	NN to E. Landau, to NN, to Jake Bell, to J. H. Murrell*
515	515	NN to W. Amelingmeier, to Jim Sloss, 2/3/59, at \$1200.
516½	516	PF to Mike Kolman, 8/15/58, at \$1200.
516½	516½	NN to R. Yablum, Yablum to Stack's, to J. H. Murrell*

516 3/4 Grains      Handkerchief 516½ Grains NN to H. Clifford, 3/3/58, at \$1100.

\* One of the Murrell coins was sold to Kagin-Hollinbeck at the 1964 ANA (Cleveland) Convention, together with other Pioneer gold coins.

To my knowledge, Murrell owns his second piece, and both Sloss and Clifford still own their examples. I do not know the present whereabouts of the Kolman specimen (which is the only one out with the exact correct weight of 516 grains).

The Kolman specimen was from a handkerchief marked ".020 Thous. Copper." While we believe that all seven pieces were struck in Philadelphia, and that these were made in different silver-copper alloy ratios, this piece is the only one which we were able to obtain the original alloy notation on. (Standard U.S. Mint alloy for gold; 900/1000 - .050 silver - .050 copper to .033 silver - .067 copper.) Our source, with whom Franklin had quite a discussion, remembered reading about a controversy in 1853, at the USAOG, concerning the amount of copper alloy needed for the 900 Thous. coins, in order to conform with (then) existing U.S. law.

Subsequent to the unearthing of the seven proofs, a number of highly attractive "Proof-like" first strikes were obtained from the original source, and friends of his, including his banker. (The original owner turned in \$14,000. to \$15,000. in gold coin, in 1933-34.) These were from various reverse dies. Probably the best of them was sold to Bob Batchelder in 1962-63. It was from the reverse die with a dash-like

mark between TE of UNITED. Another, handled first strike, was sold to Gaston DiBello at the 1958 ANA (IA) Convention, for \$225.00. Many of the "Proof-like" specimens have changed hands as proofs.

In response to an inquiry by L. S. Werner, I wrote a letter to Elston Bradfield, which was printed in the August, 1963 issue of "The Numismatist," on pages 1090-91. An earlier reference, in the same magazine, to the 1853 USAOG \$20, 900 THOUS. proofs, can be found in the April, 1909 issue, page 111. Further information can be found in Part IV, "Pattern and Experimental Pieces of California, 1849-53" of "Private Gold Coinage of California, 1849-55" by E. H. Adams. (See pages 104-106.)

I obtained a large number of USAOG and Moffat-USAOG coins, patterns and trials, in both gold and lead, together with the seven proofs. Included <sup>was</sup> ~~as~~ a proof twenty, in silver, reeded edge, with 900 clearly over 884 (THOUS.). The lead trials (which I still have) are identical with those in the Joseph C. Mitchelson coll., which is on display in the Connecticut State Library in Hartford. I do not have duplicates of all of the Mitchelson pieces, but I have many lacking in the Mitchelson lot. All are of identical style and fabric.

All of the pieces that Franklin found (that were different) have been carefully photographed and listed. I have a filing cabinet of information on various unknown Pioneer coins and mints, and in particular have much on the USAOG. However, there is considerable information I have not had a chance to develop, most of it in the National Archives... Eleven years ago I obtained a microfilm of Humbert's USAOG records (which Adams could not locate), together with other data.

If you wish, you can examine my files upon your next visit east, in connection with the proof (and related) coins. Even so, I do not wish to have my discovery material published at this time. My reasons for this are quite easy to understand: (a) the source for most of the items unearthed is still very much alive, and I am trying to locate similar material, and (b) there are many loose ends to be covered, before the story could (or should) be told. Finally, I have instructed all of my friends and clients to cooperate fully with requests for coins to be photographed and examined.

JAMES O. SLOSS, M. D.  
1425 THIRD STREET  
BEAVER, PA.

June 30, 1967

Mr. Ronnie Carr  
P. O. Box 1113  
Tulare, California

Dear Mr. Carr:

Thank you for your kind letter of the 26 June in which you state that Mr. Harvey Stack has arranged to have X-Ray Fluorescence tests made on the original seven (?) Humbert source USAOG specimens to determine their alloy or composition.

I feel that there is little or no value to these tests as it is a well known fact all territorial gold coins have an extremely wide variation of composition or alloy, in as much as the methods of manufacturing and the scientific know-how was very primitive in 1852-53. These tests were conducted by members of the study group, filed away, and not even mentioned in discussions of these coins, as they were considered immaterial in the study of these pieces and that this maneuver is a completely diversionary one.

However, I am willing to submit my specimen if all six other pieces, including the Clifford piece plus two other pertinent specimens, namely, the Forman and the Tobias pieces plus two known <sup>pieces</sup> similar pieces of a known pedigree extending beyond twenty years are included. I suggest three sources of these pieces--the Norwebb collection, the Newman collection or my collection. If possible, the known pedigreed specimen which would be available through Mr. Abe Kosoff should be included. Also, that arrangements be made by this group to have pertinent X-Ray defraction studies done on these same eleven or twelve coins to reveal the methods of production rather than composition and that physical comparison studies be made by the group in Boston, which should include several persons with known numismatic background.

Furthermore, I think these coins should be sent to you, chairman of the P. N. S. arbitrary panel, with the guarantee that they will only be examined and handled by the Boston group and that under no circumstances will any of the New York persons be allowed to handle any of these pieces, returned to you and then to the individual owners. Other persons will not be allowed to handle these pieces without the written consent of the individual owners.

Sincerely yours,

cc: Mr. Eric Newman  
Mr. Abe Kosoff  
Mr. Paul Garland  
Mr. Harvey Stack

